

A PUBLICATION OF THE MOJAVE DESERT AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## FRYXELL BIDS DISTRICT FAREWELL AFTER 16 YEARS AT THE HELM

After 16 years as the head of the second geographically largest air district in the state, MDAQMD Air Pollution Control Officer Charles "Chuck" Fryxell has called it a day, announcing his retirement. Subsequently, the District's Governing Board appointed Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer Eldon Heaston as Fryxell's replacement during the February Board meeting.

Fryxell leaves behind a legacy of cleaner air and common sense regulation for the High Desert communities he served. During his tenure, levels of PM-10 - fine particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter - declined so drastically that 1991 was the last year a federal PM-10 exceedance was recorded within the District's boundaries. In 1994, the MDAQMD achieved another major clean air milestone when the Trona portion of the Searles Valley attained the federal PM-10 standard. Ozone levels also declined progressively over the past 16 years, with 2004 logging only two exceedances of the federal one-hour standard, the lowest number in the MDAQMD's monitored history.

Fryxell's common-sense approach to air quality regulation has been largely credited for the air quality improvements the Mojave Desert has experienced since 1990. Fryxell's trademark approach - whereby cooperative partnerships for cleaner air replaced traditionally adversarial relationships between air districts and regulated industry - resulted in local businesses meeting or exceeding regulatory requirements and improving air quality. According to Michael Haro, Manager of Environmental Resources for Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, "Chuck has a keen understanding of how business functions, and worked with us to resolve issues in a manner that provided a win-win solution for both parties."



**Chuck Fryxell**

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## Let The Fun Begin At Clean Air Fair 10

"Let The Fun Begin At Clean Air Fair 10" is the theme of the MDAQMD's 10th Annual Clean Air Fair, which kicks off National Clean Air Month on Saturday, May 6th. The goal of the Fair is to inspire High Desert residents to take an active part in protecting the air, and the environment at large. The Fair will be held at Victor Valley College's lower campus gym, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

This year's environmental extravaganza will again feature two shows by acclaimed "eco-magician" Paul Cash, and special appearances by local school dance groups, vocal groups and school bands. Additionally, Clear Channel Radio will be on the scene with a live radio remote by The Fox 106.5 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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**Eldon Heaston**  
MDAQMD Executive  
Director

## Heaston Named New MDAQMD Director

In recognition of his exemplary track record as Deputy APCO for the past eleven years, the MDAQMD Governing Board has named Eldon Heaston Executive Director of the agency effective February 27, 2006.

Heaston has been pivotal in cementing the District's reputation as one of the most progressive and accessible air agencies in the nation. In his previous capacity as Deputy APCO, Heaston managed the day-to-day operations of both the MDAQMD and the AVAQMD, including compliance, regulatory development, engineering, air monitoring and the small business assistance program. Prior to his appointment as Deputy APCO, Heaston served as the MDAQMD's Environmental Services Manager, whereby he was responsible for the development and implementation of the District's AB 2588 Toxic "Hot Spots" Program, rule development, Health Risk Assessment/Modeling and State and Federal Implementation Plan development.

According to Heaston, he is looking forward to the challenge of leading the MDAQMD and the AVAQMD in the years to come. He added that "The AQMD will continue to protect the health and welfare of our communities while working closely with local governments to balance a strong economic base that showcases the best in environmental responsibility."

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*The Desert Air Monitor  
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Mojave Desert AQMD's*

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EDUCATION OFFICE**

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Victorville, CA 92392-2301  
**(760) 245-1661**

**Eldon Heaston**  
*Executive Director*

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## **FRYXELL** cont'd from page 1

Fryxell's business-friendly philosophies have also been credited with fostering local economic development and spawning legislation that helped emancipate the region from onerous air regulations designed for polluted urban areas. "Chuck's leadership was vital to enabling job growth in the High Desert," stated Buck Johns, President of Inland Energy, the parent company of Victorville's High Desert Power Project. "He was instrumental in passing legislation that permitted inter-basin trading of emission credits, without which the economic activity we see today would have been blocked."

Fryxell's other accomplishments include orchestrating the 1993 creation of the MDAQMD as an autonomous agency under local control; formation of the Mojave Desert Air Basin, which grouped the High Desert with other regions with more similar air quality; securing EPA- approval of the District's Federal Ozone Attainment Plan, which for the first time linked the District's attainment of the federal standard to the South Coast Air Basin's attainment, based on the overwhelming impacts of transport; bringing a zone of the California Regional Environmental Education Consortium - a project of the California Department of Education which links educators with high quality environmental education resources - to the High Desert in the form of MEEC; becoming the first APCO to ever simultaneously oversee two air districts: the MDAQMD, and the Antelope Valley AQMD, which began contracting for air quality services with the District in 1997; and having the MDAQMD named "Air District of the Year" in 2003 by New York-based *Power Magazine*.

Remarked Fryxell, "It's been a pleasure serving the High Desert's businesses and communities and I know I'm leaving the District in good hands with the appointment of Eldon." Fryxell plans to relocate to Bishop, California, where he and his wife Linda look forward to spending quality time hosting their grandchildren and fishing.

## **Clean Air Fair** cont'd from page 1

The centerpiece of the Fair will be the 40 - plus "green" exhibit booths presented by local businesses and organizations. The exhibits will showcase the environmental efforts of these entities, using hands on exhibits, demonstrations and informational displays. Scheduled exhibitors include the Air and Waste Management Association, the High Desert Mavericks, High Desert Power Project, San Bernardino County Fire Department, Fort Irwin, Southern California Edison, and Victor Valley Transit Authority, to name a few. An alternate fuel vehicle display will feature the latest in "green" autos, including hybrids and natural gas fueled vehicles. The American Lung Association will also be on the scene for their "Flight For Life" kite flying event, which will be held on the soccer field. The Fair will also feature an array of giveaways, a bike raffle and kids activities.

The 10th Annual Clean Air Fair is free and open to the public, and is co-sponsored by The Fox 106.5, the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium, TXI Riverside Cement, High Desert Power Project, Daily Press, Mitsubishi Cement Corp., OMYA (California) Inc., Victor Valley College, AgCon Inc., Elementis Specialties, Hi-Grade Materials Co., IMC Chemicals, KJC Operating Co., Molded Fiberglass Co./West, Cement Industry Environmental Consortium, Brubaker-Mann Inc., Select Personnel, Burrtec Disposal, and Valley-Hi Toyota Honda.

For more information, please call the District's Community Relations and Education Department at: (760) 245-1661, ext. 6717.

## **HEASTON** cont'd from page 1

Heaston was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas. Prior to joining the MDAQMD in 1991, Heaston spent more than eleven years working in the aerospace and petrochemical industries, where he held various positions in refinery operations, industrial hygiene and environmental management.

Heaston earned a Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, San Bernardino, where he currently serves as an adjunct faculty member. He is a founding member of the Mojave Desert Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA). He has also served as Chair of A&WMA's West Coast Section and currently serves on its Board of Directors.

Heaston makes his home in Upland, California, with his wife, Sharon, and their four children.

# "Shootin' The Breeze:"

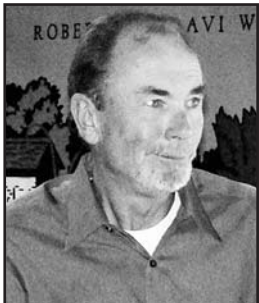


**Tracy Walters**  
Air Quality Specialist

## Tracy Walters Joins the MDAQMD

Tracy Walters has joined the MDAQMD as an Air Quality Specialist with the District's Stationary Sources Department. She will be working primarily in rule development and planning functions. Tracy came to the District from the County of San Bernardino's Department of Environmental Health Services.

Tracy currently lives in Spring Valley Lake with her husband Kirk and her high school age son Brett. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, camping, and scrapbooking. Tracy shared her excitement about her current position by stating, "I'm so happy to be in a positive environment here at the District and look forward to many years of continued service."



## District Retiree Passes Away

Doug Macauley, recently retired Surveillance Supervisor for the District, passed away on January 25, 2006. Memorial services were held on January 28th. His body was laid to rest at Sunset Hills Memorial Park in Apple Valley, CA.

Doug will be fondly remembered by his colleagues and many friends at the MDAQMD. He leaves behind his beloved wife, Jerri, three daughters, one son and several grandchildren.



## CLEAN AIR NIGHT AT MAVERICK STADIUM

Come join us for a night of fun at Clean Air Night at Maverick Stadium on May 27th at 7:00 PM. The first 1,000 attendees will receive a set of Maverick collectible baseball cards with clean air tips imprinted on them. Bring the kids, bring your smiles, and have a ball! For



## Scouting For Clean Air

Lead Air Quality Instrument Technician Larry Parks answers questions about the District's air monitoring equipment during a tour of the MDAQMD taken by local Boy and Girl Scout Troops on February 17th.

# District Recognizes Outstanding Environmental Science Fair

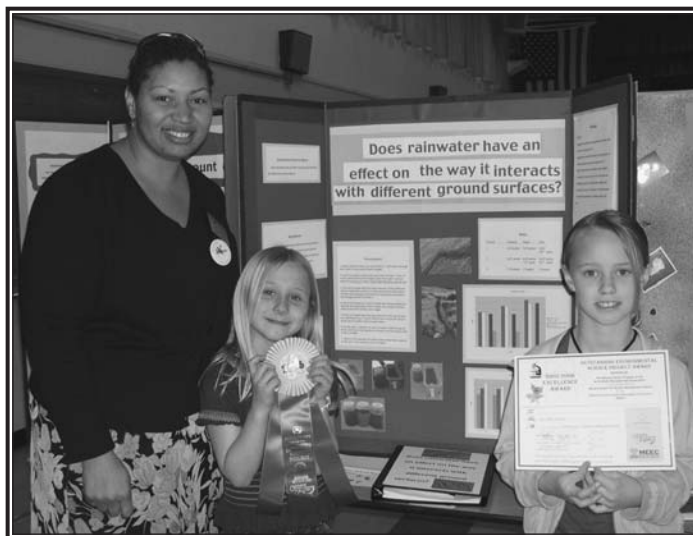
Between February and April 2006, MDAQMD staff and MEEC stakeholders judged more than 1,000 science fair projects, and presented the "Outstanding Environmental Science Fair Project" award to students participating in approximately 20 events District- wide. Each school fair winner received a \$50 savings bond, courtesy of the Mojave Desert Chapter of the Air & Waste Management Association, while district-level winners received \$100 bonds.



*MDAQMD CRE Specialist Cheryl Bennett stops for a photo op with 7th grade student Jessica Jacuinde of Columbia Middle School. Jessica's project was awarded the "Outstanding Environmental Science Project" award at the High Desert Science Fair on March 11th.*



*Shannon VanHoy (center) and Serenity Mitchell (right) proudly display the ribbon and certificate presented to them on February 8th by CRE staffer Cindi Baker (left). Their joint project on the effects of rain water was presented with the "Outstanding Environmental Science Fair Project" award at a presentation ceremony held at Hinkley School.*





# Board Members Tour Regulated Facilities



## BOARD TOUR VISITS COGEN PLANT

*MDAQMD management staff accompanied members of the District's Governing and Hearing Boards for a tour of the Foxborough Cogeneration Facility (FCF) in Victorville on March 29 (at left). The FCF - which is currently undergoing expansion to meet the growing energy needs of its customers - was one of four High Desert facilities visited by the group during a recent Governing Board Tour. The District periodically schedules regulated site tours to familiarize new board members with permitted sources within the MDAQMD's jurisdiction.*

## MOYER FUNDS AT WORK

*Members of the District's Governing and Hearing Boards join Executive Director Eldon Heaston (third from left, foreground) and MDAQMD staffers for a photo op at Mitsubishi Cement Plant in Lucerne Valley during the recent Governing Board Tour. The off-road water truck pictured in the background will be repowered with a lower-emission engine using \$105,833 in grant funds awarded to Mitsubishi Cement through the MDAQMD's Carl Moyer Program. This project is expected to reduce NOx emissions by 15.2 tons, a 55% overall reduction. The Moyer Program provides state funding to private companies and public agencies for the incremental cost of cleaner-than-required engines and equipment. For more information, call Roseanna Navarro-Brasington at 760-245-1661 ext. 5706.*



# MEEC Corner



## MEEC Sponsoring Partners .....Years of 2005-2006 .....Sponsorship

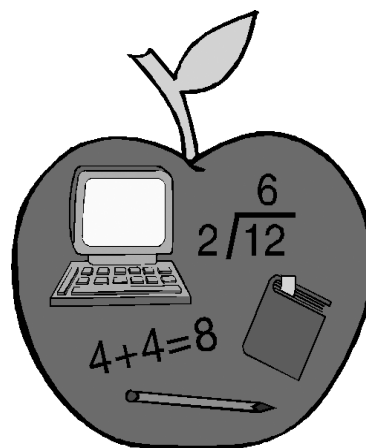
ACE Cogeneration .....	1
City of Adelanto .....	2
AFG Industries .....	4
A&WMA (Mojave Desert Chapter) .....	4
Antelope Valley AQMD .....	1
Antelope Valley Press .....	1
Town of Apple Valley .....	3
City of Barstow .....	2
Boeing .....	1
Cement Industry Environmental Consortium .....	5
Cemex .....	1
CH2MHILL .....	1
Daily Press .....	4
Department of the Army & Ft. Irwin .....	3
Desert Community Bank .....	1
Edwards Air Force Base .....	1
Gary Little Construction .....	1
The Gas Co. ....	2
City of Hesperia .....	5
High Desert Power Project .....	3
Inland Energy, Inc .....	2
City of Lancaster .....	1
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics .....	1
Mitsubishi Cement Corporation .....	5
Mojave Desert AQMD .....	5
Mojave Water Agency .....	5
Molycorp .....	2
Northrop Grumman .....	1
Omya California, Inc .....	1
City of Palmdale .....	1
San Bernardino County Fire Department .....	3
Searles Valley Minerals .....	2
Southern California Edison .....	3
txi Riverside Cement .....	5
Victor Valley Transit Authority .....	3
Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation .....	3
Victor Valley Water District .....	1
City of Victorville .....	3

## MEEC Supporters:

American Lung Association/Inland Cities, Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Desert Discovery Center, Lewis Center for Educational Research, Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District, Sierra Club/Mojave Chapter, Southwest Gas Corporation, UC Agriculture & Natural Resource Coop. Ext., Victor Valley College, Women In Mining.

*Visit [www.meeconline.com](http://www.meeconline.com) to find out about environmental education teacher workshops upcoming special events, and grant opportunities for educators!*

*Our Stakeholders are the wind beneath our wings. We appreciate each of you.*  
**Thank You!**



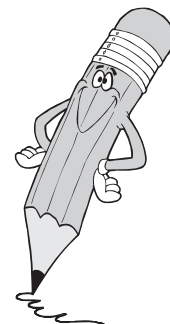
*If you are an educator or a business representative who would like to know more about the MEEC program, please call the Community Relations and Education Office of the Mojave Desert AQMD at:*

**760-245-1661**

*We welcome your participation!*

# Students Write About Used Oil Recycling

MEEC joined forces with the City of Lancaster and the City of Palmdale, to help students understand the importance of used oil recycling through an essay contest held in February. The topic of the contest was "Travel the Highway of Used Oil." Over 200 essays were received in four categories: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Each 1st place recipient received \$50, 2nd place received \$25, and third place received \$15, plus a Certificate of Achievement. All essay contest winners read their essays during a presentation ceremony held at the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District in Lancaster.



*The following are four of the winning essays:*

## **Deepti Reddy, 1st Place - St. Timothy's Episcopal School, Apple Valley - 6th grade**

Have you ever wondered about the phrase Oil Spoils Soil? This is a very true statement and... there is much more damage caused by used oil. How can this damage be reduced: Recycling used motor oil is the solution to this problem.

It is amazing to think about how oil pollutes the soil. If we spill even one drop of oil onto the ground, it will spoil the soil. The oil from a single oil change (1 gallon) can ruin the taste of a million gallons of drinking water (1 part per million), the supply of fifty people for one year. Oil dumped on land reduces soil productivity. Concentrations of 50-100 parts per million of used motor oil can foul sewage treatment processes. Interestingly enough, this damage can be avoided.

Indeed, recycling used motor oil helps prevent oil polluting the soil. Used oil can be re-refined and reused into good-as-new lubricating oil. "Oil never wears out, it just gets dirty." It is easier and cheaper to recycle used oil than to make new oil from crude. One gallon of used oil can produce the same amount of motor oil as forty-two gallons of crude oil, and requires only 1/3 the energy. If recycled, the oil could save about 1/2 million barrels of crude oil each year, worth nearly \$10 million. Since recycling used motor oil has so many benefits, serious thought should be given and appropriate action must be taken to recycle used motor oil.

Oil spoils the soil. Recycling is the answer if you want to stop the damage caused by oil polluting the earth. In the U.S., less than 60% of used motor oil is recycled. I strongly feel that this percentage can be increased by more people doing more research and putting more effort in this field. By recycling used motor oil, the Earth would be a much better place.

## **Jalin Gordon, 1st place - Quartz Hill Elementary, Quartz Hill - 4th grade**

Did you know you can recycle motor oil? Even if you think the oil is too dirty. It's very easy to do, simply look for the nearest community recycling location. It should be easy because there are more than 12,000 community recycling locations nationally. Besides you get paid to recycle something's and you help the ocean and everything that relies on it. I know that my nearest community recycling center would be Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center in Palmdale. If you throw away oil, even in a sealed container, it would still spill into the earth. Eventually it will work its way into the ocean and damages the ocean community.

Some people don't know what the benefits of recycling oil are. By reconditioning, reprocessing, and refining used motor oil. This resource can help conserve natural resources save energy and save money. Two gallons of used motor oil can make enough electricity to power the average home for one day, cook 48 meals in a microwave, blow-dry a person's hair at least 216 times, vacuum a house 15 months or watch television for 180 hours, according to [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org).

Remember that motor oil is made for cars and trucks to drive on the highways. But if you don't recycle that oil the right way, it could damage the earth. The earth gives us a place to build highways. The least we could do for the earth is travel the highway of recycled oil.

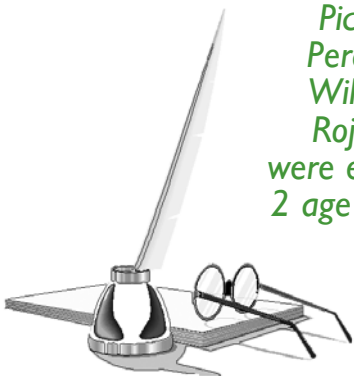
***Isaiah Williams, 1st place -  
Hinkley School, Hinkley -  
1st grade***

What is the highway of recycled oil? It's minerals that get dirty when it goes around the U.S.A. It started under the ground where the dinosaurs and plants died and made oil. Then the oil went to gas stations. People use it in their cars. It makes the motor go. This is how the minerals get dirty. So now we should recycle it.

This is why recycling oil is important. If you do not use oil in your car, your car will not work. If you throw oil away, you can't use it again. If you throw away oil, you will kill plants and this about oil.



*Pictured left to right are Santana Peralta (2nd place winner), Isaiah Williams (1st place), and Mayson Rojas (3rd place). These students were essay contest winners in the K-2 age category from Hinkley School.*



***Jessica Jacuinde, 2nd place  
- Columbia Middle School,  
Adelanto - 7th grade***

There are billions of cars on the road each day, and that's tonso of motor oil that is being used. However, what is being done with the oil after it has been used? Some of the used motor oil is thrown onto the ground, tossed in trash cans, or into storm drains. By doing this, it contaminates and pollutes the soil, ground water, streams, air, and rivers. This does not help the environment, so it is absolutely necessary to recycle used motor oil.

There are many ways in which the environment can become hazardous by not recycling used motor oil. One way is if used motor oil is poured on to the ground it can seep into the soil and pollute the water supply making it dangerous for people. Also, it can contaminate the plants that provide us food and that could make us ill. Used motor oil should be recycled because they contain chemicals such as trace metals, chlorinated solvents, gasoline, polynuclear aromatic, hydrocarbons, glycols and PCBs that is harmful to the environment.

To help prevent the environment from becoming contaminated with used motor oil, we need to recycle it. By recycling it we can conserve this valuable resource and protect our environment. After draining the used motor oil, recycle it by giving it to a certified collection center. Traveling the highway on asphalt, made out of recycled motor oil, is one of the best ways to protect our environment.



# MEEC Teacher Workshops Touch Down in the Antelope Valley

On December 6, 2005 MEEC held a teacher workshop at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Palmdale, entitled "The Earth is in Our Hands: Preserving and Restoring Our High Desert Ecosystems." Over 40 educators attended the session, which was the first MEEC workshop to be held in the Antelope Valley. Attendees participated in a tour of the Lockheed Martin Aerospace facility, and received free standards-based curriculum to use in their classrooms.

February 22nd was the date of the first teacher workshop to be held at Edwards AFB, the nation's premiere flight test center. The workshop - which was titled, "The Secret World of Reclaimed Water" - hosted educators from the High Desert and the Antelope Valley. Attendees received a free "Project Wet" curriculum guide, which was supplemented by a tour of the base's wastewater treatment plant.



*Lockheed workshop attendees discover how a bird's beak determines what types of food it can consume during a hands on learning activity.*



*George Jung of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics explains Lockheed's chemical usage recording system to teachers in one of the facility's many chemical control cribs, during the workshop tour.*



*Teachers tour the wastewater reclamation plant at Edwards AFB on February 22nd.*



*Educators learn about the different types of bacteria used in wastewater reclamation during a tour of the plant's lab.*

# TOP ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS & STUDENTS RECOGNIZED BY MEEC

Four educators and five students were recognized for promoting environmental stewardship in local schools, as MEEC presented its annual Teacher and Student of the Year awards on March 15 in Silver Lakes, CA.

Frank Cleary, a kindergarten teacher at Mariana Elementary School in Apple Valley, was presented with the top "Teacher of the Year" award. School Principal James Woods nominated Cleary in recognition of his efforts as advisor of Mariana's "Green Team," a student organization that has been implementing school wide environmental programs for the past 10 years. The "Green Team" collects leftover cafeteria scraps, leaves and grass to create compost, which is used by the students to grow vegetables at an on-site garden. Cleary also coordinates "Sneakers for Playgrounds," a campus wide program which recycles old sneakers into safety mats for children's playgrounds. In addition to receiving a commemorative plaque, Cleary was awarded \$300 and a palm pilot, courtesy of Staples.

Matthew Huffine of the Academy for Academic Excellence (AAE) in Apple Valley and Shelley Hastings and Paula Patterson - who team-teach at Palm Vista Elementary School in Twentynine Palms - were awarded MEEC's "Teacher of Excellence" Awards. Huffine - a Mojave River Scientist and Biology teacher - was nominated by AAE Principal Gordon Soholt for challenging his science students with a creative and "rigorous curriculum...that requires students to move beyond repetition into comprehension." In addition to his exemplary work in the classroom, Huffine was recognized for guiding his students' groundbreaking research of the Mojave Tui Chub, the only known fish that is native to the Mojave River, and for maintaining an on campus habitat for desert tortoises.

Hastings and Patterson - who team-teach fourth grade - were co-nominated for their environmental efforts by Palm Vista School Principal Joseph Crites. Hastings and Patterson's classes are currently earning money for a field trip to the San Juan Capistrano mission by recycling aluminum cans. This past Arbor Day, the two teachers guided students in planting trees on campus, and are currently helping their Gifted and Talented (GATE) students plan and design a "Butterfly/Friendship Garden." The yearlong project will incorporate a dry creek bed and native desert plants, which will serve to house a desert tortoise the students hope to adopt. Huffine, Hastings and Patterson were each awarded \$100, in addition to commemorative plaques for their efforts.

Alongside the four teachers, MEEC also recognized five local students for their commitment to protecting the environment. Shayla Allen and Katelynn Dole of AAE, Amber Dencker of Columbia Middle School, Ruth Honts of Mariana Elementary and Brittnee Meitzenheimer of Sultana High School were recognized for undertaking such activities as leading a "Green School" campus club which boasts more than 80 participants, to researching and implementing revegetation efforts in the hillsides surrounding Mitsubishi Cement's Lucerne Valley plant. Each Student of the Year - who was nominated by one of their teachers - was awarded \$60 in cash and a \$60 Staples gift card in recognition of their achievements.

*Cheryl Bennett (right) of the MDAQMD presents Teacher of Excellence winners Shelley Hastings (left) and Paula Patterson (center) with their awards during a school site staff meeting at Palm Vista Elementary School in Twentynine Palms.*



*Student of the Year award recipient Shayla Allen (far left) addresses attendees at the MEEC Teacher of the Year banquet on March 15. Also pictured from left to right are Katelynn Dole, Student of the Year recipient; Frank Cleary, 2006 MEEC Teacher of the Year; Ruth Honts, Student of the Year recipient; and Matt Huffine, 2006 MEEC Teacher of Excellence.*

# "Enviro Bus Buck" Field Trips A Hit With Teachers and Students

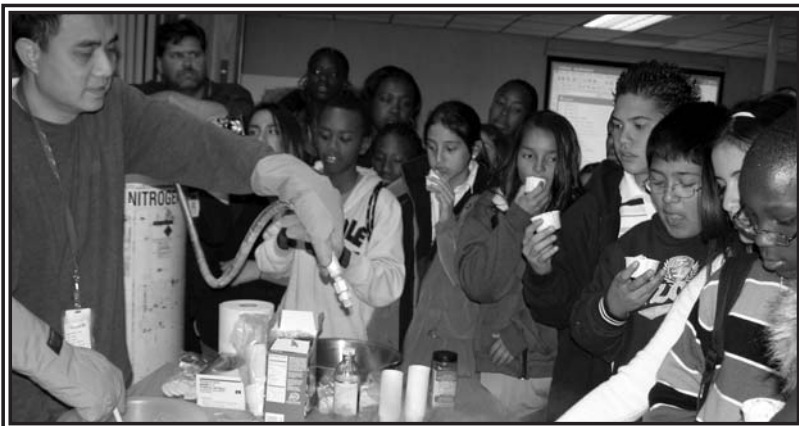
The success of the "Enviro Bus Buck" field trip program has local teachers begging for more! In the 2005-2006 school year, MEEC funded a total of fourteen field trips, up from seven in the 2004/2005 year. As a result of the program - which provides funding for school bus trips to sites which emphasize environmental education - students have found themselves examining aircraft at the NASA facility, learning how all people are interrelated at the Barstow Desert Discovery Center, learning about the latest energy-saving appliances at SCE's Customer Technology Application Center, witnessing the process of electricity generation at the High Desert Power Project, and sampling ice cream made from liquid nitrogen at Edwards Air Force Base. The Enviro Bus Buck program is hugely popular with local schools, and teachers are already requesting grant applications for the 06-07 school year.



*Students from Columbia Middle School tour an aircraft hanger during their March 21st field trip to NASA and Edwards AFB.*



*Students from Victoria Magathan School in Adelanto view the latest in energy-saving household appliance technology during their tour of SCE's Customer Technology Application Center in Irwindale, CA.*



*Students from Columbia Middle School learn about chemistry while sampling freshly made ice cream during the Edwards AFB tour on March 21st. The ice cream was made by spraying liquid nitrogen into the cream mixture.*



# CLEAN AIR VOTED #1 REASON FOR LIVING IN THE HIGH DESERT

Each year, readers of the Victor Valley *Daily Press* vote for places and things they consider the "Best of the Desert." In January, the votes are totaled and winners are published in the "Best of the Desert" special supplement. For the fifth consecutive year, "Clean Air" was voted the #1 Best Reason to Live in the High Desert!

**It's official - if you are looking for a great place to live and work where the "Breathing is easy"... the High Desert is the place to be!**



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